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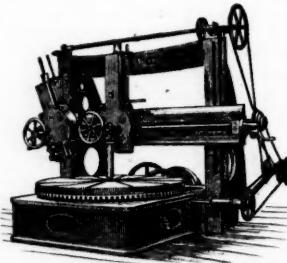
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REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

THE President and his wife spent the week after his wedding at Deer Park, in the Alleghanies. In this respect as in every other they showed a genuine desire to escape needless publicity and sensationalism; but the omnipresent reporters tracked them to their retreat, followed them to church and wherever they went, to send details which are emphatically "nobody's business." If this is to continue, it will be better to set limits to the nonsense as is done in England by the issue of the Court Circular.

THE proposal of Secretary Manning to resign his office has been made to the President in a formal letter, and declined as formally, with the request that the Secretary will take a vacation until October. This has been agreed to.

The important part of this official correspondence is the disclosure it makes of the attitude Mr. Manning holds towards the Tariff. It always has been supposed that Mr. Manning was a Protectionist on principle, although the ground for the supposition are rather slight. In this letter he shows himself as much of a Free Trader as any man who ever held the office, not excepting Mr. Robert J. Walker. He says: "All our needful customs revenue might be collected by strictly revenue duties upon a few score articles, instead of by extravagant or prohibitory duties upon more than 4000 articles." This has the true Free Trade note of inaccuracy in the first place. We have no "extravagant or prohibitory duties" in the tariff, and we have had none since 1883, when the tariff was revised. Many of our duties, including several of high importance, now fall below the reasonable measure,—notably those on wool, worsted and woolen goods, hoop iron, quinine, tin-plate, leaf tobacco and nickel. None of them rise above that.

But Mr. Manning's ideal is the British tariff. He would like to see the government's revenue collected from duties on tea, coffee, sugar, tobacco, and other articles consumed by the greater part of the people, and thus falling more heavily on the poor than the rich. But there will be several Presidents of the United States elected, and several Secretaries of the Treasury appointed, before we come to that iniquitous policy of a Free Trade tariff.

Not less surprising is the avowal of Mr. Cleveland's sympathy with all this, and his reference to "our anxious consultations" over the abuses and reforms of the tariff and the currency. This certainly shows that the President has been going through a process of education since he was inaugurated. When he was a candidate he sent a message to the voters of Ohio, assuring them, though in somewhat vague terms, that the tariff was not an issue between himself and Mr. Blaine. After his election he refused to attend the Brooklyn dinner to Messrs. Hurd, Morrison and Carlisle. But he now assents to statements as extreme as Mr. Hurd or any Free Trader except Mr. Henry George would make, and he throws the whole weight of his official position against the policy which Mr. Blaine was representing. It is not only with regard to Civil Service Reform that Mr. Cleveland has changed his mind since his accession to office.

GEN. SPARKS seems to have been in a great hurry when he issued a circular suspending the entries of public lands under the Preëmption or Timber Laws, because the repeal of those laws was under discussion in Congress. Until Congress takes action, as Mr. Lamar at least should have known, the laws are as much in force as ever, and no executive officer has any discretion about recognizing their existence. But even Mr. Lamar approved the circular before it was issued, and took no steps for its recall until a discussion had been raised in the Senate. We hope Mr. Sparks is right in his belief that Congress is going to repeal these bad

laws. But he should not be so indiscreet as to play into the hands of their friends.

THE seizure and chase of our fishing vessels by the Canadian men of war still continues. There are no American ships of war in these waters, and perhaps it is just as well. We do not want an armed collision with Canada. The power to force her to stop such proceedings is already in the President's hand, as he has signed the Dingley Bill. But the State Department makes no move, unless it be the interchange of diplomatic messages.

THE Lowell Bankruptcy Bill has come to grief in the Senate. Its enemies succeeded in striking out an essential feature, and its friends abandoned it as worse than useless. The decision was probably a wise one. The passage of the bill as amended probably would have stood in the way of a better measure. So its defeat, though to be regretted, was the best that could be done. For another year at least the country must continue under the operation of state laws, which differ as widely as possible.

In New York the laws are very objectionable, and the practice is still worse. By various indirect methods it still is possible to send a debtor to jail and keep him there, although nothing worse than the debt has been proved against him. The agitation against this state of things has gone on for more than twenty years, and at last the Legislature has passed a law to put an end to it. It is hoped that Gov. Hill will sign it.

THE Senate has passed a bill appropriating \$150,000 to compensate the Chinese for the injuries they have sustained at the hands of the rioters in Washington Territory. As we have enforced similar claims in behalf of missionaries and other American residents, who suffered at the hands of Chinese mobs, there is evident justice in the proposal. And as the territory is subject to the direct authority of the United States, which can reinforce the local authorities to any extent, there is no good ground to plead want of responsibility.

A Senate Committee has reported favorably a proposal to vote \$106,000 to complete the Bartholdi statue. This New York administration has worked as zealously as did the last to relieve the city from this burden; but we hope it has worked in vain. This Bartholdi statue has not a fraction of the claim upon the nation that the Centennial Exhibition had. It makes a much smaller demand, and that upon the richest of American cities. But in that case the people of this city had to bear by far the greater part of the burden, and the proposal that the national government should pay a part was resisted and defeated largely through the votes and the influence of New York.

FOR two years a joint committee of the Senate and House has been trying to reorganize the scientific bureaus connected with the government, but has failed to reach any conclusion. That the present many-headed arrangement must cease is recognized by everybody, but especially by the National Academy of the Sciences. The reduction of the several geological surveys to one, under the direction of Mr. Powell, was a step in this direction, but the farther steps are more difficult. These are the Coast Survey, the Signal Service, the Geological Survey, the Hydrographic Office, the Statistical Bureaus, and the Census Bureau, all of which ought to have their recognized place in a scientific department, and even much of the work of the Agricultural Bureau might be placed there. But nobody recognizes the statistical and economic work of the government as scientific, so that only the first four are regarded as requiring a common head. But if we are going to deal with science at all through our government, we should pro-

ceed with as broad ideas as France or Germany. The recognition of a few branches of the physical sciences to the exclusion of everything else is an absurdity.

We heartily approve the proposal to detach the Signal Service from the army. Their association has been used to secure important places to incompetent men, and to subject the employes of the service to cruel and degrading tyranny. Gen. Hazen and the court-martials of last summer are proof enough that a change is needed.

SENATOR CONGER made a just and witty protest against the appropriation to pay a part of the expenses of an international commission on a decimal system of weights and measures. For years past a knot of specialists, with Dr. Barnard at their head, have been pressing this proposal upon the country. It has not been adopted and it will not be. Our system of weights and measures is immeasurably superior to any that can be based on our decimal notation, which itself is notoriously unsatisfactory and far more in need of reform. No law could now alter the habits of our people in this regard. Such laws have failed to produce any such effects in Europe, where the old local and provincial standards still maintain their existence alongside the new legal standard. And it is the height of absurdity to waste the public money—however small the sum—on projects which have no more importance to the American people than has the Keely Motor.

MR. CARLISLE has held a conference of the chairmen of the committees of the House to see what can be done to facilitate the progress of legislation. The contrast between the House and the Senate in this respect is too glaring to be ignored, although the rules of the House for the limitation of debate are much more effective and direct. So the Speaker wants to know who is responsible and what is to be done. As a matter of course Mr. Morrison thought the presentation of the Tariff Bill was the first duty. The proposal of a measure which is sure to evoke three score speeches, and pretty sure to be defeated in the end, is certainly an original way of clearing up the House's record in the matter of delaying public business. But it is not improbable that Mr. Morrison will have his way. The President and Mr. Manning have been strengthening his case.

THE Committee on Appropriations, of which Mr. Randall is the chairman, has undertaken to revise the Civil Service Commission rules by making the appropriation for the commission dependent upon a specified alteration. The clause provides that when an appointment is to be made for any state to an office in any department, the Commission must send to the appointing officer the names of *all* the candidates from that State who have passed the examination successfully. This would give the heads of departments and of bureaus a large discretion, in the exercise of which none but good Democrats would get any place under this reforming Administration.

If Mr. Randall be responsible for this clause, then he has shown a singular stupidity in proposing it. He seems to have assumed that the Commission not only drafted but adopted the rules to which he objects, and which provide that only the three highest names shall be sent in. In truth the rules were adopted by the President, and he alone has the power to change them, under the Pendleton Law. Does Mr. Randall mean to send Mr. Cleveland notice that unless he changes one of his rules, which the untrified Democracy find in the way of their getting the offices, he shall have no money to carry them out? And does Mr. Randall really suppose that the Republican Senate is going to support him in his little plan of keeping every possible Republican out of a Washington clerkship? The recommendation is a piece of gratuitous folly, by which the Democracy will get nothing but odium.

A REBEL brigadier from Alabama, Gen. Wheeler, abused the courtesies of the House and the patience of the American people last week by a malignant attack on the memory of Edwin M.

Stanton, and even that of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Kelley on Tuesday last made a reply, which must have made some ears tingle. His rhetoric was vigorous, but it was not in it that the force of his answer lay. It was in the reading of a long and unpublished letter written by Mr. Stanton in 1862, in replying to just such charges as this which this ex-Confederate dished up anew in a speech on a Pension Bill. Nothing could be more timely, for the persistent slander with which Mr. Stanton—above all the other members of that heroic Administration—has been assailed for years past, has created in some ill-informed people the notion that the man was one to be apologized for. "Throw plenty of mud and some of it will stick" is the maxim on which these defilers of honored memories have been proceeding. But this letter gives the whole country such a taste of Secretary Stanton's quality as will put the bad savor of many a slander out of the mouth. Mr. Kelley has rendered a service to the country by this manly reply, although he went too far in speaking of those who listened to Gen. Wheeler as "conspirators."

THE Oleomargarine Bill has passed the House, and is now before the Senate. It is not likely to pass that body, as the sort of opposition it met in the House is likely to be much stronger in the Senate. We shall not regret its defeat. It would set a precedent in the matter of meddlesomeness in congressional legislation which we hardly could afford. As yet we leave the regulation of such matters to the States, and in any of these the farming interest is strong enough to secure an effective protection of its interests. To bring them within the purview of Congress by indirect legislation would be easy but not advisable. At the most Congress should go no farther than to lay a prohibitory duty on the export of such articles, just as it lays a prohibitory duty on the import of chievery and shoddy. But if it begin to protect the American consumer against adulteration and similar frauds by excise duties, it will require an indefinite extension of the Internal Revenue bureau, and will fail of the purpose in view after all.

MR. BLAINE has made a very able speech on Home Rule at Portland, which at once attained the dignity of an international incident. He characterized the proposal of Lord Salisbury to settle the Irish difficulty by a wholesale emigration of the Irish people as "insolent" and "brutal," reminding his hearers that the Irish were in Ireland a good while before Lord Salisbury's ancestors crossed the channel into England. One report made him apply those adjectives to Lord Salisbury himself, but the connection makes this both clumsy and needless, and therefore improbable even antecedently to Mr. Blaine's correction of it.

Lord Salisbury saw fit to reply in the House of Lords, of course with a sneer at his American critic. He did not see the brutality of recommending emigration from a country in which the opportunities for employment are too few for the people. He would have done better if he had explained why these opportunities are too few, and misery so general in Ireland, in view of the statistics Mr. Blaine gave as to the fertility of Ireland. Mr. Blaine said:

"In the year 1880 Ireland produced four million bushels of wheat. But wheat is no longer the crop of Ireland. She produced eight million bushels of barley. But barley is not one of the great crops of Ireland. She produced seventy million bushels of oats, a very extraordinary yield considering Ireland's small area. The next item I think every one will recognize as peculiarly adapted to Ireland. Of potatoes she produced 110,000,000 bushels, within 60,000,000 of the whole product of potatoes in the United States for the same year. In turnips and mangolds together she produced 185,000,000 bushels, vastly greater in weight than the largest cotton crop of the United States. She produced of flax 60,000,000 pounds, and of cabbage 850,000,000 pounds. She produced of hay 3,800,000 tons. She had on her thousand hills and in her valleys over 4,000,000 head of cattle, and in the same pasturage she had 3,500,000 head of sheep. She had 560,000 horses and 210,000 asses and mules. During the year 1880 she exported to England over 700,000 cattle, over 700,000 sheep, and nearly half a million of swine. Remember all these came from a territory not quite so large as the State of Maine, and from an area of cultivation of less than twenty millions of acres."

"But with this magnificent abundance from this fertile land, rivaling the richness of the ancient land of Goshen, there are thousands of men in Ireland in want of food, and appealing to-day to the charity of the stranger,—compelled to ask alms through their blood and kindred in America. Why should this sad condition occur in a land that overflows with plenty, and exports millions of produce to other countries? As commanded by the great Lawgiver of Israel, 'Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn.' And St. Paul in quoting this text in his first Epistle to Timothy declared the 'laborer to be worthy of his reward.' And yet many of the men engaged in producing these wonderful harvests of Ireland are to-day lacking bread to satisfy their hunger."

Even Mr. Blaine showed no insight into the real cause of Irish misery, ascribing it merely to the land system, which exacts a rental of \$65,000,000 a year from an area no greater than the State of Maine, and a taxation which takes \$35,000,000 for general and \$15,000,000 for local purposes. Ireland could pay all this and never feel it, if she had the varied industry which would give her employment for her idle people, and a home market for her food products.

THE Cleveland Convention has adjourned, after enlarging the executive committee of the Knights of Labor, and giving Congress several pieces of advice. The chief struggle within the body was between those who wished to override and dictate to the older labor organizations, and those who wished to continue Mr. Powderly's policy of conciliation. It was the former who prevailed, and it was their representatives who were chosen to the executive council. Mr. Powderly claims that his hands have not been weakened, and that his policy received ample endorsement from the Convention. We are not able to put this construction upon the facts, and we fear he will find that the new, unconciliatory policy of the brotherhood will soon result in making the Knights of Labor but one among the many labor organizations who work for the common ends by jarring and colliding methods. This we shall regret, for we see no brighter hope for the future of labor in America than in the union of the workingmen into one intelligent and soberly conducted organization, such as exists in Mr. Powderly's mind as an ideal.

THE Chicago Grand Jury has made a return with regard to the Anarchists' conspiracy which we think worth quoting. It fully confirms what we always have said as to the numerical and social insignificance of the conspiracy of the Reds, and it discredits much alarmist writing both before and since the collision with the police. The Grand Jury says:—

"It is a satisfaction for us to be able to state, as a result of a careful examination of a large number of witnesses, that, in our opinion, while the danger has been imminent and serious, it has been in the popular mind largely magnified and the number of these enemies of law and order greatly overestimated. The evidence produced before us was conclusive as to the fact that the Anarchist conspiracy had no real connection with the strikes or labor troubles, but that it simply made use of the excitement incident to those troubles as its opportunity. By those in the best position to know, we have been assured that the total number of Anarchists or Nihilists in this country from whom danger need be apprehended is less than 100, and probably does not exceed from forty to fifty men. Associating with them, and partly subject to their malign influence, there are perhaps a few hundred more who would be dangerous in exact proportion to the extent that they are made to believe in the power of their leaders and in the weakness of the law. Then, again, there are perhaps from 2,000 to 3,000 men variously classed as Socialists, Communists, etc., who are addicted to wild and visionary theories in regard to matters of government, but who are not necessarily dangerous or inimical to the peace and welfare of society so long as the law is enforced in such a manner as to entitle it to their wholesome respect."

FOR some weeks the Committee on Claims of the Massachusetts Legislature has been hearing Mr. Cyrus W. Field through his counsel with regard to the sale of a mass of the stocks of the New York and New England railroad. These stocks were owned by the State, and Governor Robinson and the executive council resolved to exercise their discretion by selling them. Mr.

Field and a number of New Yorkers made a bid for them in response to the published "proposal for bids." The Governor and council however sold them to a Boston syndicate at a considerably lower price. This was justified by the plea that Mr. Field and his associates had avowed a purpose to wreck the road, while the Bostonians were its friends. But in the hearing it came out that the Governor and council had taken no pains to hear any but the one side of the case. Every person they got information from was either a member of the syndicate or closely related to some member. And the Committee report that the words alleged as proof of Mr. Field's purpose to wreck the road by forcing it into bankruptcy bore an honest sense, and were not to be interpreted as the Boston syndicate interpreted them, because Mr. Field and his brother would be among the heaviest losers by such a transaction. At the same time the Committee indicate their satisfaction as to Gov. Robinson's uprightness of intention, which, indeed, nobody doubts.

THE New York legislature last year, at the instance of Mayor Low, of Brooklyn, passed a law making elevated railroads liable for the indirect damages done to property situated along their line. This year the legislature has repealed the law, and Governor Hill is expected to sign the bill. It was found to be simply mischievous and injurious to the interests of Brooklyn. The owners of real estate must take their property subject to any drawbacks which the general interest renders necessary. Were it otherwise, no railroads of any kind, and no roads even could be constructed through the older districts of the country. It is impossible to run either without injuring the property along the route to an extent which it would be ruinous to pay for. The jury raised to assess the damage done by cutting a lawn into two parts, treats it as though it were a wheat field, and rightly so. If it went farther, where would it stop? At what rate would it compensate the owner of an old homestead for the ruin of the associations connected with his childhood's home?

THE death of Dr. John W. Nevin of Lancaster, removes a principal figure from the public life of our state. Dr. Nevin was a member of the Scotch-Irish family of that name, which has given the State many distinguished clergymen, lawyers, and editors. He began his public career as a minister of the Presbyterian church, and the editor of a weekly newspaper, in which he fought for emancipation, temperance and other reforms. Having experienced a considerable change in his theological views, he joined the German Reformed Church, and became the President of the little college at Mercersburg in the Alleghanies, in which the ministers of the denomination were educated. At his instance Dr. Philip Schaff was called to Mercersburg as his associate in 1845, and began the infusion of German theological ideas into American theology. By the influence of the two men, and especially of Dr. Nevin, Mercersburg became one of the most important centres of theological influence in America. Schaff's "Idea of Protestantism," his "History of the Apostolic Church" and his pamphlet "What is Church History?" coöperated with Dr. Nevin's "Anxious Bench" and his "Mystical Presence" in giving a more historical and churchly complexion to the theology of their own and of other Evangelical churches. Especially *The Mercersburg Review* made a great impression, and Dr. Nevin's article on "The Sect System" was an event in itself. Since the war the college was removed to Lancaster and consolidated with another, and Dr. Nevin has resided in Lancaster since that event. Some years ago he resigned the presidency. But "the Mercersburg theology" continues to stand for his teaching and that of the men who were formed under his teaching, such as Harbaugh, Gerhart, and Appel.

Dr. Nevin's theological attitude was first indicated in his tract against "the Anxious Bench,"—the favorite instrument of revivalists fifty years ago. He attacked the whole revivalist system, and insisted—as Dr. Bushnell afterwards did in New England—on Christian nurture by catechetical instruction as the

proper method of introduction into the Church. He thus labored to recall the Reformed Churches generally to the older methods which had been superseded or neglected in the excitements of the Methodist revival. Out of this grew his profound reverence for the Christian sacraments as the ordinary channels of spiritual influence, which finds expression in his "Mystical Presence," which may be said to be his chief work. Some years ago he responded to some sharp criticism of Dr. Krauth upon his consistency by a very interesting autobiography. Its collection out of the columns of *The Messenger*, and its completion by some of his accomplished children, would be a worthy monument to his influence.

MR. GLADSTONE'S REPULSE.

ON Tuesday morning, some hours after midnight, the Home Rule Bill for Ireland was defeated in the House of Commons by a vote of 311 to 341. As there are 670 members in the House, and 652 voted, there were but eighteen who were absent, or abstained from voting. This shows that all sections of the Liberal dissidents, Radicals as well as Whigs, rallied their forces against Mr. Gladstone. As such a defeat makes the continuance of both this ministry and this House of Commons impossible, the Prime Minister at once moved an adjournment until Thursday, and employed the interval in taking the necessary steps to obtain the Queen's permission to dissolve Parliament and order a general election. It is now announced that she has decided to do so, and all parties are preparing for an appeal to the country.

In the debate which preceded the vote the honors rested with Mr. Parnell. Mr. Goschen, who opened the debate, spoke in a much more reasonable tone than did the assailants of the bill generally; but he, like the rest, occupied himself chiefly with secondary matters, such as Mr. Gladstone's consistency in his dealings with Liberal dissidents. But Mr. Parnell dealt with the great aspects of the question in a singularly calm and statesmanlike way, but one which we regard as extremely disappointing. In some respects, indeed, his speech left nothing to be desired. His treatment of the Ulster problem was as fine as it could be. He rose out of the atmosphere of party contention, and dealt with the northern province in a way as wise as it was patriotic. The Ulstermen in his view were Irishmen, and as such he would welcome them into a national parliament, in which they would form a valuable, even an indispensable, element. Ireland could not do without them and did not want to; and they would find themselves strong enough to secure themselves in every just right. The temper of this part of the speech was one of the finest specimens of Mr. Parnell's manner that we have seen, although this is the strongest point in his practical management of affairs.

But in his dealing with the limitations Mr. Gladstone's proposition lays upon the new Irish Parliament, Mr. Parnell seems to us singularly weak. His approval of the bill was from the first matter of surprise to genuine Irish nationalists and their friends in America. But it was thought that when he came to explain the exact measure of his approval, it would be found to imply a great many qualifications of a serious nature. But his speech shows the contrary. He is ready to accept just what Mr. Gladstone offers, and to accept it as a finality. He acquiesces in the refusal to let Ireland touch the customs and excise legislation, although he formerly made that a part of his demands for Ireland. He accepts the position of a subordinate parliament for the new Irish legislature, as perhaps better for Ireland than the independence of the period 1783-1801. He even recognizes in the British Parliament an indefinite right of interference with the Irish Parliament, if in its judgment it do not manage Irish affairs well.

All this is extremely disappointing, and tends greatly to diminish the regret for the defeat of the bill. It shows that Mr. Parnell has no real insight into the industrial difficulties of Ireland, and very little genuine sympathy with the feelings of her pronounced nationalists. And it shows he has not been paying strict attention to what was said of this bill in America, when he speaks

of the universal acceptance of it by the Irish race everywhere. It has not been so accepted, and it never will be. The men whom Mr. Parnell in 1878 begged to stand aside in their labor for entire separation, and to give the Home Rule party a chance to restore Grattan's Parliament by peaceable means, did not look for any such surrender as this. And many of them will hold themselves absolved from the compact then made to drop the agitation for separation.

What Mr. Gladstone may do is not of much importance. For Ireland it is better that he and Mr. Parnell should not have the arrangement of the terms on which the relations of the two countries are to be reconstructed. It would be better for her that he should be obliged to resign and let the Tories make a trial of managing the country with the help of the Whigs. A return to coercion, though to be deprecated in itself, would be a less calamity than the establishment of a mock Parliament in Dublin, under the pledge given by the leaders of the Irish nation to accept that as a finality. Evidently the problem demands braver and farther-seeing men than these Home Rulers in Parliament.

LEOPOLD VON RANKE.

LITTLE notice has been taken of the venerable German historian who died last month, in American periodicals. Yet over twenty volumes from his pen have been translated into English, and Sarah Austin's rendering of his History of the Popes has for the last forty years been the familiar and standard authority on the shelves of our college libraries. Three causes gave him especial eminence among English-speaking people, though one applies with equal force to his popularity at home. Three-fourths of all his numerous publications relate to modern history, that is to those times out of which what he would have called "modern culture" immediately grew; he was the historian of the Reformation, not in the narrow ecclesiastical sense, but in the secular and scientific sense which treats that great epoch as the source of existing political and art conditions; he wrote the history of England through the Tudor and Stuart dynasties, of which a six-volume English edition appeared at Oxford ten years ago.

Ranke's works extend in the complete German edition to about fifty volumes, and from 1824, when he made a reputation at twenty-nine years of age with his first work, a "History of the Romance and German People from 1494-1555," he produced a volume for every fifteen months of his prolonged life, having completed the seventh volume of his Universal History only a few weeks before his death.

The historian's life was not personally eventful, although it spanned the whole period of the German as distinguished from the Holy Roman Empire, with all the stirring actions involved in the transition from dynasty to dynasty, from capital to capital, and from particularism to unity. He and his three brothers made the name illustrious in church and state, one of them being a champion of the Protestant cause in Bavaria. Their native place was a little town in Merseburg, a few miles north-west of Naumburg, a district which became Prussian while Ranke was a Leipsic student. Leopold's professional life was passed in Berlin, except the first few years when he was a teacher in the gymnasium at Frankfurt-on-the-Oder, and in the sunshine of Court favor. On three occasions he was the recipient of especial royal attention; first, when, in the beginning of his Berlin professorship, he was sent with government credentials to investigate the state records at Vienna, Venice, Florence and Rome, out of which researches came his "Princes and People of South Europe in the 16th and 17th Centuries," a work that comprised what afterwards appeared under changed titles, and is popularly known as his "History of the Popes;" second, when the Berlin government gave him access to its archives as the first person to whom they were freely opened, and out of this opportunity came "Nine Books of Prussian History;" and finally when on the 21st December last his younger friend, the Emperor William, took part in the public celebration of the ninetieth anniversary of the historian's birth. Ranke was always the political friend of the Hohenzollern House, as these privileges and honors evince. In his thirty-seventh year, when Frederick William III, oblivious of his promises of constitutional reform, was pursuing his reactionary policy towards absolutism, Ranke began a semi-political journal, of which the sentiments were so unpopular that after four years of experiment the publication was abandoned. He also edited the correspondence of the vacillating and chimerical Frederick William IV. with Bunsen, in order to explain why that monarch's reign fell so far behind the promise of his friendship with the great Chevalier; and later he wrote a history of Frederick the Great. To these we must add in support of the

Brandenburg House a treatise on the "Origin of the Seven Years War," and an account of the "Rise of the Prussian States."

With the exception of his last great undertaking Ranke confined himself largely to the period subsequent to the commencement of the Reformation. Whether his pen was occupied with the people of Southern Europe, or more specially with the popes and their state, with Germany or with England, he but briefly and seldom strays earlier than the beginning of the Sixteenth Century. The task at which he was set when death arrested his hand was a Universal History, of which an extended notice was made in *THE AMERICAN* of July 19, 1884. This work differs in its style and execution from his previous undertakings. Contemporaneously with his first book appeared the first volume of Giese's Church History, an author who was Ranke's senior by but three years. Both belonged as to method to the same order of writers, which was known as the modern scientific school. Its process was that of industrious research, and a subjection of the data thus recovered to the canons of modern criticism. Both loaded their narratives with notes displaying their original authorities, Giese to such excess as to constitute his story a mere thread upon which to string his documents. On the other hand Ranke did write narrative, and was conspicuous among his German contemporaries for paying some attention to his rhetoric. But he restricted his field of examination to fragmentary epochs, and wrote voluminously and exhaustively upon them, displaying in copious notes his apparatus. The process results in scholarly work, but not in such an artistic view as the older historians gave, or as for example may be found in Thirlwall's History of Greece, or Green's English People. Imitators sprang up, for when the knack of such writing is once caught, it tempts laborious industry unquenched by genius to copy it, and thus Germany produced a "School of Ranke."

Quite different in conception is the "Universal History," already mentioned. This is no attempt to exhaust an epoch with photographic minuteness, no chronological industry. It does not even deal with inscriptions and ancient monuments, nor with intricate questions of ethnology. Ranke's conception of universal as distinguished from particular history did not lie in the differing extent but in the nature of the field. Finding modern society in possession of an ever growing and purifying tradition of political, religious and artistic culture, he sought to show the relation of different races and nations to each other in producing it. In such a task the writer must generalize, must see things in perspective, must rise from the conditions of the artisan to those of the artist. For it Ranke was especially qualified by his industry and length of years, for its execution calls for the widest learning and the largest experience. This work has been arrested at the seventh volume and the reign of the Emperor Henry V., and therefore at a point where the interest of the antiquary hardly changed to that of the sociologist. An English edition of this history began to appear two years ago at Oxford, and a reprint was brought out by the Scribners of New York, but its editor announced that the completion of the undertaking would depend on the reception accorded to the earlier volumes. This problematic continuance is now left more indefinite by Ranke's death. In peaceful scholarship, in unusual advantages for research, in diligence, in longevity, and in world-wide respect Leopold von Ranke attained to an exceptional place among German historians.

D. O. K.

ANCIENT EDUCATION.¹

AT the present time, when the pedagogical world is in a state of perpetual ferment, the number of works on Education is constantly on the increase. The Education of the ancients, it is true, had a different motive from that of our own. Their end was principally conduct, while ours is chiefly knowledge. But as the present movement in educational circles is towards a closer approximation to the ancient ideal, it might be well to see exactly what that ideal was. A recent essay has placed it before us very clearly for a part of the ancient world. With the Greek division of the world into "Greek and barbarian," Mr. Hobhouse has given most of his attention to elaborating the educational system of Greece, and of that lesser light of culture, Rome. Education in Greece was much prized; in fact we hear of its prohibition as a punishment administered to a rebellious colony. Education began in infancy, and was usually directed to the child's manners. He was taught to be seen and not heard, obedience to parents was enjoined, and enforced by corporal punishment with so modern an implement as a slipper. At seven the boy went to school, and for the first few years spent much of his time in gymnastic exercises. At first he was initiated into the mysteries of the palestra, and later into the gymnasium proper. There the Greek form, which has served as the model of beauty ever since, was developed to its highest point of perfection. In fact not a

few critics are inclined to believe that the gymnasium was one of the strongest influences in the development of Greek art. Unfortunately, however, the gymnasium, instead of being a means, became an end, and finally degenerated to professional athleticism. Outdoor exercises were not popular, though every Greek was taught to swim. His mind was trained by means of reading, writing, counting, and sometimes a little geometry, drawing, singing and instrumental music. To music much importance was attached, while under reading came the study of Greek poetry, and as attendants, religion, philosophy and history.

This is an outline of the ordinary schooling received by an Athenian boy. In the other states it was not so good, while in Sparta the system employed was quite different. There the child belonged to the state, not to the parent, and every interest was subordinated to military discipline.

Female education was in the main unknown, and always entailed a sacrifice of character, though in Sparta, where the only ideal was the rearing of healthy men, women, married and single, exercised alongside of the young men in the palestra.

Higher education was received in the schools of philosophy, and was intended to fit a man for his duties to the state. The Sophists were the first to give regular instruction for pay, and were severely denounced, the reception of a fee for this office being considered and called prostitution. The Academy of Plato was the first regular school, and from it there developed in Athens a great institution, with endowed chairs, to which, as we know, many of the most brilliant Romans went for their more advanced studies. But nothing in the educational history of Greece is more fascinating than the theory laid down in Plato's Republic. To make a whole man is the ideal, mentally, morally and physically. Obedience came first. Boys "should go to school at daybreak, and should be kept to work by strict discipline, for they are the most unruly kind of animal, possessing reason, but ill regulated." Girls and boys were to have the same education, the difference between them being one of degree and not of kind. After the sciences the crowning study was dialectics, but special education was unknown; "real education is a training in virtue from youth upwards, qualifying a man to be a good subject and a good ruler."

In Rome we see no special educational development. Before Greek influence it was mostly a family institution, and afterwards showed little originality. The gymnasium it is true never became naturalized, open air athletic sports being as a rule preferred. But the sharpest contrast is to be found between Roman and Greek educational writers. Plato, that brilliant theorist who kept the world enthralled for centuries, laid down what he considered a complete system of education, while Quintilian took what he found and attempted to improve the details. He merely gave advice with regard to schools and teachers and subjects to be studied.

And now having tried to do justice to what Mr. Hobhouse has said, we may take a passing look at what he has left unsaid. Purporting to treat of ancient education, he mentions the Persians, the Jews and the Egyptians, to whom combined he devotes about ten lines. China is not even mentioned, though it always has been and is to this day one of the best educated states in the world. Any one who regards Civil Service Reform as a step in the right direction will be glad to learn that it has been in vogue in China for centuries. Learning is the only passport to official advancement, from the highest to the lowest office in the state. Among the Jews public education was instituted at or about the time of the Christian era. That the three R's in addition to technical education were known before that time, is certain. But when the Jewish state fell, her wise men recognized that their only strength lay in education. Accordingly it was compulsory on every community to set up a school and employ at least one teacher for every twenty-five pupils; in fact a man who settled in a town where there was no school was placed under the ban. Schools for higher education were even older, and science and foreign languages, though they were studied, did not detract from the attention paid to the national laws and religion.

Another ancient education by no means to be despised was that of Assyria. Assurbanipal (Sardanapalus of the Greeks, in the seventh century B. C.), tells that he learned to read all the tablets, riding, driving, hunting and shooting. Now as these tablets included history, law, astronomy and medicine and some other subjects, it will be seen that an Assyrian prince received a very fair education. Moreover, from very early times Assyrian boys were taught a foreign language—the Akkadian—which was the sacred language of the priests. For this purpose, grammars and translations and notes and vocabularies were drawn up, and that feeling of power and acuteness of mind were developed which always comes from the study and comparison of different languages. And finally, to give our addendum an air of completeness, we would advance the claim of Arabia and India to the consideration of the future writer of the History of Pedagogics.

CYRUS ADLER.

¹ THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF ANCIENT EDUCATION, being the Chancellor's English Essay, 1885. By Walter Hobhouse, B. A. Oxford, 1885.

AWAKENING.

BESIDE a hollow-murmuring stream
All night the dreaming Psyche slept
Within a cave. The night-wind swept
Without; she heard it through her dream.
Up from the East the gray Dawn stepped;
His face was pale, his hands were chill;
He breathed a mist from hill to hill.
Psyche stirred in her dreams, but slept.
Forth on the mountain Morning sprang;
Before his face the mists rolled back;
Through the white dew he left his track;
With clang of life the woodlands rang.
And Psyche stirred from dreams and sleep:
Past the cave's mouth, the daylight seemed
Less real than the things she dreamed,
She lay half roused from slumbers deep.
The day had come, the night was past.
She moved her hands, still moist and flushed,
Back from her cheek the damp hair brushed,
And on her elbow raised at last.
Within the cave still lurked the night.
Her hands above her dazzled eyes,
Quick breathing, tremulous with surprise,
Psyche stepped forth to life and light.

KATHARINE PYLE.

REVIEWS.

THE HISTORY OF BIMETALLISM IN THE UNITED STATES. By J. Laurence Laughlin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Political Economy in Harvard University. Pp. xv. and 257. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

PROF. LAUGHLIN set out with the purpose to write simply a history of our national experience in the matter of using two metals as the material of our coinage. But he found it impossible for him to do so without dealing with the economic principles which were involved in the question, and he frankly informs his readers that they may expect more than a history, although the history is still the main object, and occupies by far the greater part of the work.

Taking the two parts of the work separately we think the historical part by much the more valuable. By means of carefully prepared tables and illustrative diagrams, and by careful historical narrative, Prof. Laughlin has put the matter into the most intelligible shape of which it is capable. We had occasion recently to consult the book in the preparation of a lecture on the question, and we found every material question answered, not only as regards the fate and fortunes of gold and silver in America, but also in Europe before the discovery of America. Our author has laid every student of this problem under permanent obligations.

When we pass to the speculative or theoretical element in the work, we feel that we are treading on ground much less firm. Prof. Laughlin is a monometallist, and of course a believer in the gold standard. That is the position occupied by the school of economists to which he belongs; and the decay of faith in the single gold standard is one of the indications of the loss of power on the part of that school. Like all the positions of orthodox political economy, the theory of a single gold standard was the stronger the more the mind was abstracted from facts. It was stronger with theorists and professors than with the representatives of practical finance, like the governors and directors of the Bank of England. It had a charming simplicity, which commended it to minds trained at Cambridge in the study of mathematics, and therefore delighted to find the simplicity of mathematics in any human or social concern. It might be conceded that it would be an excellent thing if the world had managed to secure a supply of one metal just plentiful enough and just rare enough to meet the needs of mankind for coin, and therefore able to maintain itself at the same purchasing power and furnish a real standard of value. It would be as excellent as Free Trade between nations exactly equal in industrial capacity and the accumulation of capital. But each theory was found by practical people to assume a state of things which did not exist, and it was seen that nothing but harm and confusion must result from the assumption that it did exist.

Again, it is perfectly true that the ratio in value of gold and silver has changed with the increased production of either. Prof. Laughlin argues that it is this single fact that explains all the va-

riations in their relative price. He denies, against Mr. Horton, that the legislation by which England demonetized silver in the second decade of the century had anything to do with the fall of silver then; and that its demonetization by Germany, the Scandinavian kingdoms, by Holland, and virtually by the Latin Union and the United States, has been responsible mainly for its fall in our own time. But the familiar formula which makes price the outcome of the relation of demand to supply discredits the argument by which he sustains his denial.

Again, Prof. Laughlin finds himself encountered by the two highest English authorities in such matters—Mr. Goschen and Mr. Giffen—as to the steadiness of gold in value. Both these gentlemen think that the recent increasing disparity in the value of gold and silver is due to a rise in the value of gold as well as to a fall in that of silver. Certainly the repudiation of silver by the mints of Europe has caused an increased demand for gold, while the quantity which is available for coinage is decreasing rapidly and steadily. The total product is decreasing, and the amount absorbed in the arts is increasing. Prof. Laughlin replies that if prices have fallen, this is due not to a rise in gold but to a collapse in credits. But where is the evidence of the collapse? It is not found in the figures which represent the credits created on the books of our banks, or on those of the banks of the world. It is true that for wholesale transactions we have managed to substitute this "money of account" for coin and even paper; but both money of account and paper are based on the coin supply; and "the battle for gold" which has gone on between all the great commercial countries since 1873, shows how inadequate for the purpose that basis has become in point of quantity.

In no particular,—though this is saying much,—is the orthodox school more unsatisfactory than in its treatment of money. Not to Ricardo and Mill, but to Colwell, Carey and Laveleye must the student go for genuine light on its problems.

R. E. T.

RED-NOSED FROST. Translated in the Original Metres from the Russian of N. A. Nekrasov. Boston: Ticknor & Co. 1886.

It is not strange that Russian literature, as far as the non-Russian world yet knows it, should seem sombre in its tone. A climate like that of Russia is more than a mere background for existence. It must color one's view of life, one's whole spiritual existence, if for nearly three-fourths of the year nature is to be regarded as a pitiless enemy to be struggled against ceaselessly, instead of as an infinite, speechless, vivid life of which man at moments seems an insignificant part; and the earth is merely something to be trodden under foot and dug into and builded upon for man's convenience, instead of seeming something alive and beneficent. A severe climate not only produces poverty among those who till the soil, but makes that poverty intolerable.

This little volume, containing a single poem, "Red-nosed Frost," by Nekrasov, has for its melancholy theme the weary lot of the Russian peasant. Nikolai Nekrasov was the son of an officer and was born in 1821. His mother was the daughter of a Polish nobleman, and had married without her parents' consent. She soon reaped the fruits of her mistake, for her husband was but half educated, and treated her harshly, but she bore her troubles bravely and patiently, and the poet's warmly expressed love and admiration for his mother bear ample witness to her lofty character. The elder Nekrasov, after leaving the army, became chief of the district police, and Nikolai often accompanied his father on his rounds, and thus gained an intimate knowledge of the life and habits of the people. The troubles and distress which he saw in this early experience made an impression on him which was never effaced. His father wished him to enter the army, and sent him to a military school in St. Petersburg; but the love of letters was soon aroused, and he determined to transfer his attendance to the University, though his step aroused his father's unrelenting anger. But he persevered, and supported himself during his university career by teaching, proof-reading, and miscellaneous literary work. In 1847 he entered upon a career of journalism of a widely extended nature, and labored unceasingly in this field till his death in 1877. He prospered, and in his later years became a rich man, but he never lost his early acquired sympathy for the unhappy lot of the peasants.

The half-comic title of this poem, "Red-nosed Frost," hardly corresponds with the tragic nature of the story, which presents in a series of pictures the death of a poor peasant, and the grief of his parents and wife, though the sorrow of the latter is mercifully soon ended, as she is gently frozen to death when, numb with distress and weeping, she goes into the forest to cut fire-wood for her children. The poem is about one thousand lines in length, and is divided into short sections in various metres. This book has the interesting and unusual feature that the Russian is on one page and the English on the other, opposite

to it, so it is possible to note some features of the translation. Russian is a much more condensed language than English, and by inflection dispenses with many of the short words which we find indispensable. In the metre most frequently employed in this poem the Russian words average three to four on a line, the English words, six to seven. In the Russian verse the alternate masculine and feminine rhymes are generally observed with injurious effect, as it is difficult, except to master hands, to use this form continuously in English without weakening the verse with forced rhymes, and frequent participle forms in *ing*. It is scarcely too much to say that one-third of the double rhymes in this translation are in *ing*, so it seems fair to conclude that this does not quite do justice to the terseness and simplicity of the Russian verse.

The feeling of the poem is most sympathetic in its appreciation of the details of the peasant's life, its poor meagre joys and pleasures and its bitter distresses. The first few verses will illustrate as well as any others the character of the poem.

"A roan nag sticks fast, by a snow-drift arrested;
Two pair of bast shoes, frozen hard,
And part of a coffin, with matting invested
Project from a sledge, old and scarred.

To start up the roan has alighted
A grandam; her mittens immense,
With ice-fringe her eyelashes whitened—
The cold is forsooth so intense!

The poet, on thought's deft wings flying,
Speeds past her, and gains in the vill,
A cabin: upon it is lying
The snow like a shroud, white and chill;

Within it,—a calf in its stall;
A peasant the sleep of death sleeping;
His children, unheeding, loud brawl;
His widow is silently weeping.

With swift-flying needle she's sewing
The linen cut out for a shroud;
Like rain long pent, meanwhile, are flowing
Her tears, yet she weeps not aloud."

Our thanks are due to the anonymous translator of this poem for giving us another glimpse into Russian literature. Circumstances have given Russia a certain individuality, and now that her literary men have recognized it and are content honestly and sympathetically to depict it, we may look for better things from the nation than in the age of French imitation and artificial standards in literature.

REPRESENTATIVE POEMS OF LIVING POETS, American and English, selected by the Poets themselves. With an introduction by George Parsons Lathrop. Pp. LII. and 683, royal octavo. New York: Cassell & Co.

This collection is the work of Miss Gilder, of New York, whose name does not appear on the title-page. She originated the idea, made the choice of the poets who were to be represented, and carried out the task of securing from each an expression of opinion or preference. The idea is a good one, for although the reader is by no means certain of getting the best poems of each writer, he gets an expression of preference which has a distinct value and use. Milton was not wise in his preference for "Paradise Regained," but the fact that he preferred it is important to our estimate of Milton.

In the choice of the authors to be represented Miss Gilder is more open to criticism, because more responsible, than in any other respect. The first thing that strikes us is that the American poets take about three-fourths of the collection, and make a company of about sixty. Now it is quite impossible to find sixty genuine poets in this country, and Miss Gilder has not found them. Some of her sixty are people of culture who have written verses because verse-writing is a matter of general accomplishment. Others have written because the verse of some great poet has inspired them at second hand, and they are echoes to voices, not voices in themselves. Very much of their work is of the sort that magazine editors are glad to print, and their readers do not object to finding in their pages, and that is the best of them.

On the broad lines of selection followed by Miss Gilder, we find that many other poets have at least as good a right. The lady who calls herself "Carl Spencer," Rev. S. W. Duffield, Rev. John W. Chadwick, Theophilus W. Parsons, Miss Anna C. Brackett, Theodore Tilton, and the Goodale sisters, have done work which strikes us as better in both substance and form than much we find in this volume. And when we look at the twenty selected to represent England we find that A. C. Swinburne, Coventry Patmore, Cardinal Newman, F. Turner Palgrave, Rev. W. Barnes, Robert Buchanan, William Morris, F. W. H. Meyers, Sir Geo. Ferguson, Augusta Webster, Emily Pfeiffer, Ellice Hopkins, Anna L. Waring, Herman C. Merivale, Pakenham Beatty,

T. Gordon Hake, William Allingham, and Bishop Alexander and his wife are all omitted. We might have made this list much longer, but these are the names whose absence strikes us first. It may be that it was found impossible to obtain any expression of preference from some or all of these. But of this we have no intimation in Miss Gilder's preface.

Passing from her work to that of her authors, we are greatly struck with the evidence given us by several of their inability to criticize their own work. Lord Tennyson, for instance, selects "The Revenge," "Boadicea," "Come Down, O Maid," and "The Daisy!" It is safe to say that not one of these, unless it be the third, has ever taken hold of the popular heart, or commended itself to good critics as a favorable specimen of his work. And yet, without a direct declaration of preference, Miss Gilder obtained leave to use these as an expression of the poet's judgment as to what constituted his best work. Browning does better, though by no means the best possible. He inserts "Saul" and "Clive" at any rate, which are unsurpassed by anything he has written; but we think we could have done better than give "Abt Vogler," "Caliban" and "A Forgiveness." Matthew Arnold confines his choice to "A Deserted Merman," which certainly is as fine as anything he has written, but the one should have been half a dozen. Lowell shows himself as good a critic as a poet in selecting part of the "Commemoration Ode," "A Parable," "The Present Crisis," "What is so Rare as a Day in June," and "The Courtin'." George Macdonald passes by his best things, and gives two which are very good, but not the best. Especially there is no indication of his subtle, Celtic humor. Miss Rossetti does not know her own power, or she would not have inserted two rather feeble attempts at story-telling, after her exquisite "Christmas Carol." Swinburne was right in his appraisement of her genius, when he ranked her as our greatest religious poet since George Herbert. Her "Three Enemies," and the third of her "New Year Carols" should have been given. Swinburne says of it that "in all the range of English poetry there is no such organ-music of passionate faith and rapturous hope and transcendent love as rings and swells and triumphs through" it.

But after all deductions from its value, we may say of this work that it is one of great and permanent worth. The amount of really genuine poetry given here, and some of it by writers much less known than those we have named, shows that the world has not lost the art of song, and is not likely to lose it, however much it may be occupied with material progress. It is true that common faults of mannerism characterize much of our modern verse, and that the inspiration of much of it is secondary. It is sadly true that the younger names do not give promise of ability to fill the places of those who have gone or may soon "go over to the majority." It is true that the modern devotion to the technique of verse threatens us with an Alexandrian age of barren accuracy. But amid all these omens of evil, there are signs of renewal and youth, of a higher social regard for the poet's work, and of a deeper sense in him of the meaning of his vocation. If we have not many great poets, we have a fair number of good poets. R. E. T.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND. By George Makepeace Towle. Boston: Lee & Shepard. 1886. Pp. 388.

A HANDBOOK OF ENGLISH HISTORY. Based on the Lectures of the late M. J. Guest. Brought down to the year 1880 by F. H. Underwood. Boston: Lee & Shepard. 1886. Pp. 614.

It is perhaps an evidence of increasing interest in English history as part of the education of American youth that a Boston publishing firm has issued simultaneously two text books on that subject. One is prepared by an American already known as a historical writer. The other is mainly by an Englishwoman, and was originally intended for English readers. The latter work has indeed been revised by an American, who makes more apology than is necessary for his partial adaptation of the history for eis-Atlantic readers. To effect his purpose completely the revision should have been still more thorough.

Mr. Towle adheres closely to the beaten track of former historians, but takes pains to avoid controversy on disputed points. He tries to steer a middle course between Hume and Macaulay. In accordance with recent views of the province of history he not only traces the growth of the political liberties and institutions of the English people, but also shows the changes in their social condition from age to age. Owing to the thickness of the paper used and the numerous illustrations, which are however only of moderate value for historical purposes, his book with less than two thirds as many pages as the other, is swollen to a greater bulk.

Miss Guest acknowledges special indebtedness to John Richard Green (whose name Mr. Underwood on page 576 gives as Henry John Green), and this indebtedness consisted not merely in the use and guidance of Green's "History of the English People," but in personal "valuable suggestions as to the authorities most helpful to the study of each period." From these authorities and

from the representatives of the literature of each period Miss Guest makes frequent quotations. Her object in so doing was to induce those that heard the lectures or afterwards read the book to examine these works for themselves. As here carried out the plan is well fitted for this end. In the chapter on Alfred, for instance, there are excellent extracts from Asser, from the *Chronicles of Ethelwred*, from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, from Pauli, and from Alfred's own writings. The two chapters on "Medieval England" give some idea of Langland's "Piers the Plowman" and Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales." A pupil of real talent would certainly be thus stimulated to attempt to master for himself early English literature. Mr. Towle gives no such glimpses of the rich and pleasant fields of literature beyond the highway of narrative to which he confines himself. He does little more than present a scanty catalogue of the authors of each period.

Miss Guest, following Froude and Green, is disposed to look with undue approval on all who have prominently contributed to the growth of England's greatness and the formation of English character. The American editor has therefore felt obliged in the interest of truth to add some disparaging paragraphs on Dunstan and Henry VIII. He has also added three brief chapters bringing the narrative down from the battle of Waterloo almost to the present day. The publishers have subjoined to both works the same tables of chronology, sovereigns and prime ministers. Both have indexes; Miss Guest's has five maps, Mr. Towle's has none. The chief fault of Miss Guest's book is a frequent childishness of style, which the American editor has pruned down, but has not entirely removed.

MADAME ROLAND. By Mathilde Blind. (Famous Women Series,) Boston: Roberts Brothers.

Miss Blind cannot be said to be wholly successful in this attempt to furnish the biography of one of the most famous of women to the Famous Women Series. It would seem as if ample material existed to make a clear and finished picture of Madame Roland, with her great heart, her sublime illusions and her tragical fate, and Miss Blind's mistake is that she has not kept close enough to her subject. She has been a little carried away by her opportunity to tell the story of the French Revolution over again, and has spent her chief strength in rehearsing the main facts of that mighty drama. She insists upon giving us over and over again an account of sensational episodes which are sufficiently in our thoughts already, and then alludes incidentally, as it were, to Madame Roland and the part she played. Miss Blind is evidently an admirer of the Girondists, but she has made little use of Madame Roland's letters to several of them, or of their copious memoirs, to illustrate the facts of her heroine's career. She moralizes endlessly, argues concerning the propriety of Louis Sixteenth's death sentence, yet gives slight hints of what actually passed in Madame Roland's life after her marriage. Yet every thing that could be told has been told by Madame Roland, both in her letters and the memoirs written in prison before her death. She was a fervid admirer of Rousseau, and as he had told everything good and bad about himself, she went far at times to imitate him in absolute candor. Had Miss Blind's zeal led her to portray the woman herself instead of the times in which she lived, the impression her book leaves upon the mind of the reader would be more adequate. There is, no doubt, a good deal of vagueness about the letters and talk which went on among the coterie of Girondists, but it is the mission of the biographer to pluck the real meaning out of verbiage, and give us the heart of the mystery.

Marie Philipon, afterwards Madame Roland, was born in 1754 and was guillotined in 1793, living not quite forty years. As a child she was full of ardor, enthusiasm and ambitious impulse, a devourer of Plutarch's Lives, and nourishing her ideals on lofty conceptions of character and the freedom of ancient republics. At the age of twenty-one she read the works of Rousseau, and his teachings gave henceforth a definite purpose and meaning to her humanitarian ideas. Four years later she married M. Roland, a man much older than herself, but of congenial views and pursuits. In 1790 began her own and her husband's association with that famous band of eloquent idealists known as the Girondists, who saw in the revolution of 1789 the happy accomplishment of all their longings and prophecies, and the beginning of a new era which meant the universal brotherhood of man. There is a terrible irony in the destiny of Madame Roland and that of the Girondists. They had welcomed the wind, believing the gales to be propitious to their hopes, and they reaped the whirlwind, black, bitter, scorching. Three women of widely contrasted types stand forth clearly defined against the lurid background of the Revolution; Marie Antoinette, Charlotte Corday and Madame Roland. Of these three Madame Roland is by far the loftiest character: in fact in certain essentials of sweetness, wisdom and zeal for what she found the noblest and best in life, she has had few equals among her sex.

BRIEFER NOTICES.

"PRINCE OTTO: a Romance," is the title of the latest of Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson's works, and if in this case the explanatory "romance" is to be taken as indicating a determination to avoid impartially the ways of the realistic school of fiction and the intensities of the more highly-wrought emotional novel, he has very well fulfilled his intention, and his production challenges admiration as a specimen of a well-balanced intermediate style. Mr. Stevenson has so many of the graces of style, and so much true feeling for the best opportunities of his subject matter, that he could hardly fail to be good even when he perversely takes the wrong lines for constructing his story. Of everything except the plot of this tale one can have only unreserved praise. The romance portion of it is delightfully romantic,—a tale of the emotions, told with true feeling and the most delicate appreciation, and never overwrought or melodramatic. The scene is laid in the mountains of Germany, and the feeling of the freedom and freshness of this region is admirably caught. The last chapters of the book, describing the reconciliation of Seraphina and the Prince, her husband, are simply idyllic, and are full of the most exquisite touches of that literary art which effaces the signs of its own handiwork. Mr. Stevenson is certainly a genuine lover of nature, and his descriptions have the true feeling, although not at all trumpeted, or apparently put in except as a matter of routine. But his petty German principality and its court, its scheming prime minister, gossipy atmosphere, intrigues, etc., are palpably stage properties, most likely bequeathed by Disraeli from the collection he had brought together for educational purposes in training "Vivian Grey." This ill-favored skeleton is rather indiscriminately mixed up with the rest of the story, undoubtedly, and we have no plan to offer for withdrawing it without damage, but we do not approve of it. We suspect it is all a joke, and it draws suspicion upon the rest of the romance. (Boston: Roberts Brothers.)

"The Story of Don Miff" (J. B. Lippincott Co.), is a wild and whirling performance, in which preposterous affectation pretty thoroughly crowds out the occasional evidences of the author's ability. Such a persistent attempt at originality and "smartness" we have very seldom encountered. An author who can think it brilliant to sandwich through his book pages of the full scores of Beethoven's symphonies, by way of giving his readers a clue to the "feeling" of his work, a thing too ineffable for mere words, must be admitted to be pretty far "gone." This is what Mr. Virginius Dabney does, the while his "humor" is built upon the model of *Tristram Shandy*, with all the inanities of that queer performance extravagantly emphasized. "Don Miff" is a child's pronunciation for "John Smith," who is the hero, and in the end of course not John Smith at all, but something properly splendid and high sounding. There is some merit in the book as giving a picture of Virginia life during the rebellion, by one who evidently knew it well, and if it had been written soberly and with self-respecting restraint, it might very well have made its mark. But such affectation as this never yet made any mark of which an author has right to be proud.

AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

NO fewer than four new editions of Dr. Holmes' "Breakfast Table" series are announced in England.—Gen. C. W. Doubleday, who was with Walker in Central America, has written a volume which the Putnams will publish, called "Reminiscences of the Filibuster war in Nicaragua."—Walt Whitman is about to publish a collection of prose and poetry under the title "November Boughs."—Messrs. T. Y. Crowell & Co. clearly mean to push the interest in books from the Russian "for all it is worth." In addition to other speculations of that nature they have on hand, they now announce, a translation of the principal works of Nicholas Gogol—"the Russian Dickens." The first of the series, "Taras Bulba," will be ready this month.

Von Ranke, who carried on his literary work with inflexible regularity, never allowed himself to be interfered with by correspondence. In the course of one of his visits to England he expressed himself strongly on this head to a friend who was in the habit of devoting a couple of hours daily to letter-writing. "Doing that amount of composition," he said, "regularly and carefully every day, you might produce two good octavo volumes in the year."

Mr. F. Marion Crawford, says the Philadelphia *Evening Telegraph*, when a boy spent three years in an English village with a private tutor, and it is supposed that he has used his memories of that time as the groundwork of his forthcoming novel, "A Tale of a Lonely Parish."

"What's To Be Done," the novel with which the Russian writer and prisoner, N. G. Tchernychevsky accelerated the Nihil-

istic movement twenty years ago, has been translated into English, and will shortly be published in Boston by B. R. Tucker.—Among the books which the Russian government has put upon the *Index Expurgatorius* are Benson's "Story of Russia," Hare's "Studies in Russia," Little's "Short History of Russia," Stepuik's "Russia under the Tsars," and Tolstoi's "Christ's Christianity."—Mr. Alberto G. Bianchi, of Mexico, has ready for publication a book on the late editorial excursion in the United States, of which the author was a member.

George W. Cable has written a letter to a friend in New Orleans, in which he says, touching his treatment of the Creole characters in his stories: "Take the books—Gayarre's 'Louisiana' is the best—but take it or any other, and show me wherein I have misrepresented. I have written about Creoles. I have depicted them as I have seen and heard them daily for nigh forty years. I have described them round and round, their good traits and their faults, as faithfully as I could. Read my 'History of the Creoles,' and when you find a statement counter to fact, let me know and out it shall come. I doubt if you will find one; but you will find as kind—albeit not the less true—things said of our Creoles as ever were printed, I believe."

J. S. Winter (now declared, by the way, to be a woman), the author of "Bootes' Baby" and other clever stories of English barracks life, has written a full-fledged novel, with the title "Army Society."—A legacy of \$75,000 has been left to the University of Jena, by Herr Paul von Ritter, of Basle, to be applied to zoological research on the basis of the evolution theory of Darwin. The testator's belief was that the teachings of Darwin constitute the greatest sign of progress that the century has yet seen.—Sir Charles Gavan Duffy has in the press in England a work entitled "The League of the North and South," an episode in Irish history, 1850-55.

M. Zola's next novel is to be a study of French peasant life. In "Terre," as it is called, he will portray the peasant as he conceives him, "bringing out more particularly the fierce earth-hunger which is at the bottom of his nature, and which too often brings his worst and most savage instincts into play. At the same time, M. Zola recognizes in the 'man who lives in constant contact with the soil' a certain element of dignity and even grandeur of character, to which he expresses his intention of doing full justice. He has been compiling 'documents' bearing on agricultural life with his usual assiduity for some time past; and at Medan, where he lives and is 'even a member of the Municipal Council,' he has a vast field of observation and study. When 'Terre' is out of hand, he purposes giving a picture of military life; the world of the Bourse and the press will next engage his attention; and he hopes to get out of the rather unpromising subject of 'railroads' materials for the romance which is to conclude the series."

Mr. Payne is to make a literal translation of "The Decameron" for the Villon Society.—A new edition of Coventry Patmore's poems is coming out in England; in addition to his own verses it contains some selections from poems by his son Henry.—Mr. E. A. Freeman's recent course of lectures on "The Methods of Historical Study" are announced for publication by Macmillan.—Dr. Moritz Busch, the chronicler of Prince Bismarck's daily life, is engaged on a work on Cardinal Wolsey.—A. J. Lymington, who knew Carlyle very well, is about to publish some favorable personal reminiscences of the sage of Chelsea.—General Chesney is said to be the author of "Newry Bridge, or Ireland in 1887," reprinted by Blackwood from *The St. James Gazette*.

At last the experiment is to be made of publishing Thackeray in popular form at popular prices. Messrs. Smith & Elder have issued the first volume of "Vanity Fair" at a shilling in paper covers, eighteen-pence in half cloth; cut or uncut edges. These are nominal prices. Most London bookshops now give a discount of 25 per cent. for cash. Thackeray's masterpiece is therefore to be had at ninepence a volume, or thirty-six cents complete. Mr. Ruskin, whose caprices are as numberless as they are irrational, lately told us we were not to be allowed to read Thackeray. He puts the greatest English novelist of the Victorian period into his *Index Expurgatorius*. It remains to be seen whether the reading public will take him out.

It is said that over 20,000 copies of Miss Rose Cleveland's book have been sold.—A new and enlarged edition of Prof. W. O. Crosby's "Common Minerals and Rocks" is promised by D. C. Heath & Co.—An educational novelty is promised in July by Ginn & Co.,—"A Beginner's Book in French," by Sophie Doriot, "with comic illustrations."—Edward Eggleston's health has so improved that he is now again at work upon his history of "Life in the American Colonies." While in Italy last winter he wrote a novel which he may perhaps bring out on his return to this country.—"Chata and Chinita," a novel of Mexican life, will be begun

in the June number of *The Overland Monthly*; its author, Mrs. Louise Palmer Heaven, has long been a favorite contributor to *The Overland*.

A. S. Barnes & Co., School Book Publishers, of New York, applied to eminent oculists for such information as would lead to the manufacture of type especially suited for youth in public schools, and to meet the increasing complaint that the eyesight of children is generally impaired by close study of many of the school books now in use. Their purpose was to follow, implicitly, the judgment of such experts, and to meet the emergency if possible. Their New National Reader and U. S. History, already printed from plates made from type thus perfected, are strongly indorsed.

In order to accelerate the publication of the new English Dictionary Mr. Henry Bradley has been associated with Dr. Murray in the editorial department.

M. Taine has almost finished his work on Napoleon Bonaparte; the book may be expected in the autumn.—Mr. Froude has in preparation a translation of the "Letters of Cassiodorus," by Wm. Thomas Hodgkin.—Messrs. Allen & Co., London, will publish immediately Mrs. Clark's monograph on Susannah Wesley, for the "Eminent Women Series."—Sir Percy Shelley has arranged for Professor Dowden to write the life of his father, the poet. Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co. have arranged for the publication, about which great secrecy is observed. It is supposed, however, that the book will be ready in the autumn.

The publishers and booksellers in Berlin have organized a movement to suppress the practice of underselling, which seems to be rife in Germany, and many of the leading houses in the trade, not only in Berlin, but also in Leipzig, have given in their adherence to the effort which is being made. The course suggested to achieve the object in view seems to be similar in character to that pursued in England on various occasions to check underselling, but always without success.

Messrs. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, will soon issue a novel with the title "Mr. Desmond, U. S. A." The authorship is not given. It is an army story, with the scenes and incidents laid at Fort Leavenworth.—Mrs. Lilian R. Messenger, a clerk in the auditor's office at Washington, is about to publish a collection of her poems—Much of the interesting private correspondence of Noah Webster, the lexicographer, will appear in the biography which his granddaughter, Mrs. G. L. Ford, has in hand, and which is nearly completed.—Mr. A. P. Sinnett, author of "Esoteric Buddhism," has a new work of fiction in the press.—Mr. Thomas Hughes is half-way through his biography of the late Bishop of Manchester, Dr. Frazer.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

A N excellent monthly publication in the department of the technical and industrial arts is *House Painting and Decorating*, issued in this city, (office 3513 Gray's Ferry Road), the eighth number of which is that for May.

Harper's Weekly, in its current issue, devotes itself to the President's wedding, presenting in a double-page supplement vignette portraits of the President and his bride, printed upon heavy paper. The portraits, from photographs by W. J. Baker, of Buffalo, N. Y., are declared to be the best and most artistic so far published. This number contains also several other illustrations, having reference to the festivities at Washington.

Messrs. Ginn & Co. announce that they will soon issue a *Zoological Journal*, edited by C. O. Whitman, of Milwaukee, which it is claimed will occupy a field at present entirely unfilled.

American periodical indexes are having foreign imitators. Last year in Russia was issued a systematic table of articles contained in twelve leading reviews from 1830 to 1884, and in Italy there has just been published an Index containing over 17,000 entries taken from nearly 250 periodicals.

The June *Magazine of American History* is a very strong and interesting number. There are three articles of current war literature, and six articles of antiquarian and historic prominence,—all excellent pieces of writing. Mr. Baneroff's forcible essay on "Self-Government" is possibly the best single feature.

Part 3 of Vol. VIII. of the transactions of the Society of Biblical Archeology contains a number of interesting papers. Mr. E. A. W. Budge gives some notes on Egyptian Stelæ, principally of the Eighteenth Dynasty; Mr. Theo. G. Pinches writes an extremely interesting paper on Babylonian Art, illustrated by Mr. H. Rassam's latest discoveries. These discoveries were of a very important character, principally at Tel-lo and Aboo-Habbah (Sippara.) From them Mr. Pinches infers four distinct styles; first the Semitic, then the Akkadian, this disturbed by Assyrian art, and lastly the Persian. It will be noticed that Mr. Pinches now thinks

the Semitic art the earliest. He also believes the date of the earliest Assyrian king, Sargon I., to have been 3800 B. C. Mr. Hormuzd Rassam treats of Biblical Nationalities, Past and Present. He concludes that all the ancient Asiatic nations are still alive under other names, and his object is if possible to trace them out. He thinks the modern Syrians are the descendants of the ancient Assyrians, doubts altogether the identifications (so generally agreed upon) of Ur of the Chaldees with the modern Mugheir, thinks that the people who spoke the "Chaldee" language were the descendants of the Chaldeans, etc. There is an article by the late Dr. Birch, on The Shade or Shadow of the Dead among the Egyptians. Dr. S. Louis treats of Handicrafts and Artisans mentioned in Talmudical writings.

The June *Lippincott* is largely devoted to the labor question, Martin Irons, F. P. Powers and others discussing various phases of that subject. W. H. Babcock contributes a striking article on the Mormon question. The stories, sketches and poems are all good.

The numbers of *Shakespeariana* for May and June contain, among other thoughtful articles, papers on "Bygone Shows," by Edmund Yates, "The Donnelly Shakespeare Cipher," by Percy M. Wallace, and "Massinger and the Bankside," by Thomas Russell. The Reports of Societies, Notes and Queries, etc., found in *Shakespeariana* are unique, and cannot be neglected by special students.

A R T.

THE IMPRESSIONIST PHILOSOPHY.

THE Impressionist exhibition in New York, which has already been noticed at some length in THE AMERICAN (see issues for May 8th and 15th), has been decidedly the "hit" of the exhibition season. The month during which it was to be seen at the galleries of the American Art Association was not enough, and the collection has been transferred to the walls of the National Academy, to be seen and wondered at by the many, and to be thoughtfully studied by some.

There is nothing strange about the wonder: the mere audacity of much of the work exhibited is quite sufficient to account for that, and any fool can be audacious—in fact this class has long enjoyed something of a reputation for the possession of this very quality, I believe; but the serious study is another matter. The exhibition has been taken seriously enough by several really thoughtful men to have furnished a motive for the publication of many more or less ingenious interpretations of the profound purpose which is supposed to underlie these rather striking performances. A pamphlet just published by Celen Sabbrin—whether a real name or a pseudonym I do not know—is one of these. It is the performance of a school-boy, certainly, callow to a degree, but it deserves notice as a type—and a very fair one—of the efforts made to understand art by minds which have nothing in common with the things which art represents. Such minds are nothing if not introspective: they find in art only a reflection of their own consciousness. They people pictures as they people the clouds or the embers in the fire-place with the creatures of their own imaginations, and they never seem to suspect the truth about their origin.

It is easy to see how puzzling this kind of an interpreter must be to an artist whose cause he undertakes to champion; what a complex affair, for instance, Turner's amusement must have been on reading Mr. Ruskin's books—but to the general public they are often diverting and sometimes instructive.

The author of this pamphlet is one of the amusing ones. The hobby on which he is mounted is not moral as in Mr. Ruskin's case, but scientific.

The painter's purpose and his mental condition, the nature of the appeal he makes to the observer, and the ultimate result of paying any attention to it, are not only all thought out, but demonstrated (to the author's satisfaction), as if they had been the most elementary of propositions. To him art is no longer art, it is simply "one of the highest forms of scientific and philosophic expression," of which the Impressionists are the chief exponents. What seems so much like madness in their work is only method, after all. Their incoherencies became intelligible if only those who look at them know enough about "dissymmetry in mind and thought," and the influence which M. Pasteur's experiments have exerted on prevalent conceptions of "motion and force." Their bad drawing and excruciating color is all explained by "triangulation" and the "psychological effect of colors," and a lot more of just such nonsense as that.

The author has "pondered boldly" on very deep themes, no doubt,—most of us did at sixteen,—but these are evidently the

SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY IN ART. By Celen Sabbrin. A review of the work of the Impressionists of Paris, exhibited at the American Art Association Rooms, New York, during the spring of 1886. Philadelphia: Wm. F. Fell & Co. 1886.

first pictures he has ever seen; otherwise it would hardly have struck him as so very wonderful that the perspective effects are usually obtained along oblique lines, which in pictures having square corners he is quite at liberty to regard as "hypotenuses," if he chooses to do so. The impressionists certainly have no monopoly of this kind of thing, however, any more than they have of the principle of dissymmetry as applied to composition. His discussion of this last is somewhat ingenious, and his postulates are well enough stated, no doubt, so far as the truths of science are concerned, (if I may be allowed to make, with much hesitancy, the one trifling correction that he seems to have mistaken effect for cause, throughout), only it is very hard to see what possible connection they can have with the subject he is supposed to be considering.

The author is, very naturally, at his best in explaining not methods but motives. He is on surer ground here, and it is in the easy canter along this familiar road that the well-shod feet of the hobby awake the most musical echoes. An extract will illustrate this. The picture described is Monet's "A Wheat Field" (No. 158),—a very good picture by the way, one of several in which the painter has succeeded in giving a very good effect of open country in broad summer sunshine. Nothing very melancholy about that one would say, but see what our subjective philosophy succeeds in making out of it. After describing with considerable truth, but with fanciful touches too, the actual appearance of the picture, the critic goes on like this:

"The eye travels beyond the wheat, past trees and green fields, to the distant blue hills, and, just beyond, the salmon-pink color (of the wheat field) is discernible, also suggesting the thought of toil. The pinkish haziness of the far distance suggests a town and busy industries, they in turn some day to be silenced and dead, even as the wheat field after the harvest will leave only stubble and straw. The wheat will relieve the immediate hunger of man, and the industry that of the soul's longing, but only as a temporary aliment. This picture, a color poem, is a step in advance of art; it is the cry of humanity."

There is a good deal of the same kind of writing in the pamphlet. All very earnest and eloquent, but very funny when you try to associate it in any way with these particular pictures. The painters of them have a good many things to answer for; their choice of subject is often distressingly vulgar, their drawing almost always weak, and their painting for the most part villainously bad, but they are not by any means the lugubrious pessimists, the dismal preachers of the gospel of despair which this interpreter of them makes them out to be; or rather, if they are they have kept it to themselves so far as these works are concerned.

It is hard to account for the unfortunate condition of mind into which they seem to have plunged this writer, except on the very general ground that he found the combined effect of so many bad pictures depressing, and that they have done for him only what ill-cooked dinners are currently believed to have often done in the case of others quite as serious and profound. L. W. M.

AMERICAN PICTURES FOR THE WORLD'S VIEW.

AT the dinner given by this city early this week in honor of Hon. E. B. Washburne, as President of the London American Exhibition Company, Mr. Albert Bierstadt announced that a gallery of American pictures would constitute one of the attractions of the proposed exhibition. This announcement invites the serious consideration of all friends of art in this country. If the proposal should be successfully carried out, it would do a great deal of good, and if not it will surely do a great deal of harm. The scheme should either receive the hearty support of every artist and friend of art, or it should be condemned and abandoned. If the work is done at all it must be well done from the first, or the consequences will be unfortunate. It is not a very creditable fact to acknowledge, but it must none the less be acknowledged that our people have not reached a stage of culture where they have any confidence in their own judgment about matters artistic. There are more foreign pictures than American pictures sold in America to-day, mainly for the reason that buyers depend on European authority to determine what is safe to purchase. The endorsement that American artists might obtain in London would be of great value, both to them and to the home public. A favorable verdict from the recognized authorities of the old world would help our art with our own people more than can be told. To obtain such a verdict our painters must send of their best. There is no question but that our artists could make a display in London that would command the admiration of the assembled intelligence and taste of the civilized world; but to do this the best work of our best men must be secured. To do less than that would be to do worse than nothing. To send a provincial-looking collection that would be received with toleration and spoken of as "pretty good considering where it came from," would be to condemn

American art afresh in the eyes of our own people, and to put a second rate stamp upon it that would not wear off in twenty years. The undertaking to secure a satisfactory exhibit should be in good hands at the outset. Those who have charge of it should not only be competent and willing to do a vast amount of hard work, but they should have the confidence of the artists, should know them and be known of them, and should be capable of judging what is worth sending. Finally, if anything is to be done the right men should be set to work at once. We hope there will be no mistake in this business.

ART NOTES.

IT is not quite in the line of literal accuracy to speak of the "close of the art season," as some of our contemporaries are currently doing, since, in the first place, there is hardly enough of an "art season" in this locality to warrant special mention, and, secondly, what little artistic activity there is during the winter, does not all come to an end at once, about the first of June. The art schools for the most part are closed during the first week in June, and many of the artistes begin to pack up for the country about the same time, but most of the studios will be open more or less during the month; the Sketch Club and the Academy Club continue to hold meetings; and a majority of all those who are interested in art will still be found in town when the month comes to an end.

However, the outing time is at hand, and one after another the painters and their patrons are taking their departure, and in the course of a few weeks "the season," such as it is, will be over indeed. The upper waters of the Delaware have always attracted Philadelphia artists, and the subjects of that picturesque neighborhood have not yet been exhausted. Within the past three or four years quite a little colony has gathered at Dingman's Ferry during July. Herzog, the landscape painter, who certainly has strong qualities notwithstanding his picture-making propensities, has, incidentally, drifted into teaching there, and the indications are that his classes this summer will be more in vogue than ever. J. R. Tait will be a member of the colony during the early summer, as will Fred. J. Waugh and Herman Simon. Mr. Simon will later be heard from on Long Island Sound, probably making some stay along the Connecticut shore. Carl Weber will divide his summer between landscape sketching with the Herzog school at Dingman's, and the study of domestic animals on a Montgomery county farm. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hovenden will remain at their home near Plymouth Meeting until August, when they will visit the seashore, going probably to Cape Ann. Peter Moran will return to his accustomed haunts among the Montgomery county hills, and Philip Weber will also be found during July and August in the same charming neighborhood. Miss Van Trump and Miss Levis have gone to Europe for the summer, and may be absent a year or more. Colin C. Cooper takes the same direction this week, intending to visit London, Paris, Munich and Rome during his absence. Robert Arthur is also contemplating another trip to Europe, but is detained at home for the present by commissions which will require several weeks of hard work to complete. James B. Sword is about removing with his family to his summer home on Canonicut Island, near Newport. Mr. Sword holds a perpetual reception at Canonicut during the Newport season, his studio being one of the attractions for summer visitors. Prosper L. Senat will be with Mr. Sword for a few weeks, and will go to the coast of Maine in August. Wm. T. Richards is making studies of farm scenes in Chester county, a new departure for this artist, whose name has so long been associated with memories of the sea and the shore. Miss Cecilia Beaux is still engaged on portrait commissions, but will presently seek rest and change in landscape study along the Lehigh. Charles Linford goes to Lake George again, his illustrations of the romantic scenery there being well appreciated. Newbold H. Trotter is detained in town by labors in connection with the proposed exhibition and sale to recoup the losses by the Academy fire, but he will soon take a vacation in Chester county with intent to make special studies of Alderney cattle. Mr. F. DeB. Richards is building a reception studio adjoining his present room at Anglesea, where his numerous visitors can be welcomed without interrupting his work. His latch-string will be out in a week or ten days.

Of all the pictures of Americans in this year's *Salon*, that of Mr. Alexander Harrison has given rise to the most difference of opinion. M. Paul Mantz, the distinguished art critic of the *Temps*, comes out enthusiastically in support of "En Arcadie." "Always on the look-out for new merit," he writes in the columns of that paper, "we are forced this year to go to a foreign artist for it,—to Mr. Alexander Harrison. The multitude, whose education is not perfected in a day, has scarcely ever heard the name of this Philadelphia Arcadian. But he is not unknown to the professional critics of the *Salon*. We have sung more than once the praise of

Mr. Alexander Harrison. From the point of view of illusive reality 'Arcadie' is an astonishing picture, one of which you never tire. Mr. Harrison has taken a long step in advance. He had already grasped the poetry of vast marine landscapes, and now he appears as the painter of the sunlight under trees, and feminine flesh-tints of reflected whiteness. It is too bad that this original, powerful canvas is not due to a French brush."

Frederick Juengling is to engrave on wood for the Paris *Revue Illustré*, edited by F. G. Dumas, works by Arthur Quartley and William M. Chase.

Olin L. Warner's statue of Daniel Webster is to be unveiled at Concord, N. H., on Thursday next, with appropriate ceremonies. Among the speakers on the occasion will be William M. Evarts, General H. H. Bingham, Benjamin F. Butler and Robert C. Winthrop.

A bill has been introduced before the United States Senate to establish a National Art Commission, which has been urged by many artists, architects and other persons competent to judge of such questions. The bill provides for a non-salaried commission of fourteen members, four painters, three architects and three men of other employments, who have knowledge of art. The purpose is to prevent the Government from being imposed upon in the purchase of art as is now frequently the case.

A report was circulated early this week that William E. Marshall's studio in New York was burned out, the fire destroying a number of valuable portraits. Authoritative advices show that there was no fire actually in Mr. Marshall's rooms, but that the upper part of the building was burned and much damage was done by water. The portraits, including that of Lincoln, painted from life, and several others that could not be replaced, were removed without injury.

The Rembrandt Club, of Brooklyn, again offers a prize, \$600 this time, for the best plate by an American etcher. As before the prize plate is to be the property of the club, and is to be destroyed after 200 impressions have been taken. Proofs to be entered in the competition must be sent in by or before December 20th. The prize this year is larger by \$200 than that of last year, but it is still too small to secure an important plate. A successful print by Hovenden, Peter Moran, Parrish, Pennell, or any of the painter-etchers of the first rank is worth from \$1000 to \$5000 to the artist, and they cannot afford to sell such a plate to the Rembrandt Society for \$600. The Society was disappointed that better and more important work was not sent in last year. The trouble is that, practically, the Society seeks to buy a plate for less than it is worth.

Of the foreign painters represented in this year's *Salon* America stands at the head of the list with 92. Belgium comes next with 54, Italy with 30; Switzerland, 29; Austria, 28; England, 25; Sweden, 22; Germany, 19; Spain, 18; Holland, 17; Russia, 13; Scotland, 6; Denmark, 6; Peru and Chili, 6 each; Norway, 5; Finland, 4; Portugal, 3; Ireland, 2; Roumania, 2; Canada, 2; and Australia, Colombia, the Philippine Islands, Uruguay, Brazil and Egypt, 1 each. If to the above are added 14 aquarellists, 6 engravers, 1 architect and 7 sculptors, the aggregate of the American exhibitors at the *Salon* mounts up to 120.

The great international art exhibition, at Berlin, preparations for which have been under way for months past, was recently opened with some 1600 contributions, principally from German artists, but with many from Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, and other countries. The Crown Princess of Germany, daughter of Queen Victoria, has taken a warm interest in having English art well represented, and with the co-operation of Sir Frederick Leighton, President of the Royal Academy, has been very successful. The exhibition buildings cover a space of some three acres in extent, and the wall-room allotted to hanging pictures amounts to about two acres. Statuary and art in marble generally also forms a conspicuous part of the exhibition, and one of the most notable works in this department is the reproduction of the ancient temple to Jupiter at Olympia in Elis,—a most costly and ambitious undertaking.

SCIENCE NOTES.

THE third and concluding part of Mr. Herbert Spencer's article on The Factors of Organic Evolution is reprinted in the June *Popular Science Monthly* from the *Nineteenth Century*. He has in these three articles developed quite an extensive scheme of evolutionary theory, dwelling especially on those forces which he believes precede, limit and supplement the action of the process which Darwin named Natural Selection. His general contention is that environment has an active rather than a passive share in modifying types, working by actual physical operation in directly changing the characteristics of the organism, rather than by simply de-

termining the direction of forces of development inherent in all organisms, as Darwin believed. He traces this influence down to a single mode of action,—the differentiation of the outer parts, which come in contact with the surrounding medium, from the inner, which do not. This begins in the primary germ-cell by producing an enveloping membrane, and continues in the aggregations of these cells which form the simpler organisms by modifying those on the outside of the mass. He then follows the operation of this process to higher organisms, and instances the facts that the root of a tree, if uncovered, will grow leaves, that mucous membrane, if exposed to air, will take on the characteristics of true skin, etc., as showing that even in the higher organisms the direct physical action of the surrounding medium is a powerful factor of development. The weak point in all this is that the cases he specifies cannot be considered as purely outside actions on the organisms. Even in the case of the germ cells the effect produced could not be produced by these same forces acting on any inert matter, and the changes which they produce must be considered as actions of the organism itself superinduced by the external conditions. And this objection is still more important in the higher organisms. Mr. Spencer seems to wish to get rid of the conception of a coördinating principle producing definiteness in the series of changes made in an organism in correspondence with certain external changes,—in plain English, the principle of life. It is safe to say, however, that he has not yet come dangerously near to reducing to the laws of inert matter the secret of this arcanum.

The United States Fish Commissioner's car recently arrived at Portland, Oregon, with a large consignment of young shad. It started with a million, but about three hundred thousand died *en route*. Half a million were placed in the Columbia River, at Wallula Junction, and the remainder in the Willamette River, at Albany. During the journey across the continent, the experiment was made of hatching the shad in the car while *en route*, and proved entirely successful. Six hundred thousand eggs were taken into the car at Havre-de-Grace, Md., and placed in four Macdonald jars. A pump was kept constantly at work moving the water to preserve its freshness. In addition, fresh water was obtained at every available point. During the nine days' journey, which covered a distance of 3,000 miles, 95 per cent of the eggs were hatched. Most of the loss was due to premature hatching.

The pipes by which petroleum is transported from the oil regions to the seaboard, says the *Scientific American*, are cleaned by means of a stem $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, having at its front end a diaphragm made of wings which can fold on each other, and thus enable it to pass an obstruction it cannot remove. This machine carries a set of steel scrapers somewhat like those used in cleaning boilers. It is put into the pipes and propelled by the pressure transmitted from the pumps from one station to another. Relays of men follow the scraper by the noise it makes in its progress, one party taking up the pursuit as the other is exhausted. They must not let it go out of their hearing, for if it stops unnoticed its location can only be established by cutting the pipe.

Mr. W. F. Dunning, of Bristol, England, has an article in the *Sidereal Messenger* for June concerning the stationary meteoric showers which he claims to have observed at certain points of the heavens. Replying to a criticism by S. J. Corrigan on the impossibility of such appearances Mr. Dunning gives tables of observations showing the appearance of many notable groups which cannot be accounted for on the currently received theories of meteoric orbits. "I contend" he says "that there is some important meaning in this observed clustering together of radiant points. If existing ideas fail to explain it some others must be adopted that will, for theoretical objections cannot absolutely and finally negative a demonstrated fact of observation. In the present instance I do not assume the evidence amounts to demonstration, but believe a fair case has been made out for future investigation."

A German invention of a petroleum engine is now being introduced into other countries, and is said to have advantages which are likely to make it a formidable competitor for gas engines and other small motors. In general appearance the petroleum engine does not differ greatly from horizontal types of gas engines, except that it carries a small reservoir above it for the oil. From the reservoir the petroleum is conducted by a pipe to a pump, by which small measured quantities are injected into the cylinder of the engine. The oil is supplied at the rate of about four drops per revolution of the engine, which runs at 120 revolutions per minute, and at a given point it is ignited by means of a small spirit lamp. On its out stroke the piston draws in a charge of air and petroleum and on the return stroke it compresses this mixture, which is exploded as the crank passes the back centre. The combustion and expansion of the charge take place at the third stroke, the products of combustion being driven out at the fourth stroke. There is thus one acting stroke in every four, motion being continued during the other three by means of a fly-

wheel. Vaporization of the petroleum previous to use does not take place, the engine using it in a fluid condition. This machine would seem to be capable of competing satisfactorily with gas engines, even where gas is available, but beyond this there is a wide and promising field for it where gas is not obtainable, and where the steam engine is inadmissible.

Mr. Ruskin has again appeared before the public as condemner of Darwin and his theory, and has found a new reason for his condemnation,—that it looks to the growth of the flesh instead of the breath of the spirit. One is really moved to inquire whether Mr. Ruskin has not literally taken his own prescription, and maintained a complete and satisfactory ignorance of that hypothesis. The triad of reasons which he has produced for his condemnation,—of which the first two are that Darwin has collected every fool in Europe into his train, and that it is man's duty to consider the creature he may become and not the germ he was,—certainly point that way. This last reason has been given to the public apropos of a small discussion over Herr von Ritter's legacy of \$75,000 to Jena University for the endowment of a department of scientific research on the Darwinian theory. There is every reason to believe that the legacy will be productive of much benefit to scientific investigation, despite Mr. Ruskin's dictum that Herr von Ritter was doubly a fool,—for his faith in Darwin, and for his faith in the University of Jena.

A new gun built of wire has been tried at the Woolwich Arsenal, England, with such success that several more of the same kind have been ordered built by the British government. The government pressure test for the gun, which was 9.2 inches bore, was 65 tons to the square inch. The gun is 33 feet long, and weighs 25 tons. The steel wire, weighing 20 pounds to the yard, is coiled around the inner tube at the breech, and well up to the trunnions, in 78 layers. The wire is flat, and is put on under a pressure of forty pounds to the square inch. The lengths are joined, brazed and riveted. A steel jacket is shrunk over the wire.

The *Textile Manufacturer*, London, thinks there is likely to be a great deal of trouble growing out of the winding up of the New Orleans Exposition. The governments of Honduras, Ecuador, Peru, the Argentine Republic, the Samoan Islands, Uruguay, Chili, Santo Domingo, Hayti, Nicaragua, and Russia sent goods under the guarantee that all expenses of transportation to and from would be paid by the Exposition Company. Even Dom Pedro, Emperor of Brazil, has his son on the way with goods, in expectation that the show would be open in the fall. The enterprise has closed a miserable failure, and the goods of these nations are held for the charges due. It would seem not at all improbable, from the moral support the United States gave the affair by granting it subsidies, that it would in good faith be bound to take these goods out of pawn and send them back.

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE ISSUE OF THE FRANKLIN PAPERS.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN:

THE announcement in your last of the Messrs. Putnam's publication of a new edition by Mr. John Bigelow of Franklin's papers is one of the most welcome the literary world has received for many years. Mr. Bigelow gives us in the *current Century* a taste of some of the Franklin letters which whets one's appetite for the reception of all the hitherto unpublished matter of his wonderful pen. It is to be hoped that Mr. Bigelow will give us every line he finds in the precious Stevens collection or elsewhere, for Franklin wrote nothing trivial and always wrote well on whatever subject he took up his pen to correspond upon. He gives us pleasure by his unequalled style. The historian is as much charmed by his discoursing upon the currents of the Gulf Stream, as the philanthropist is with his remedies for smoky chimneys, for all that he wrote amply repays perusal.

The unaccountable negligence, or the unfilial intention which led Temple Franklin to conceal and deny so much of an ancestor's writings of whom he was unworthy, we may now forgive, and can be thankful that kind time has at last brought these papers safely back to the country and to the custody of the government. Let us have all his manuscripts put into type, for not only the national historian but the special annalist may find something new for his illustration. And particularly in our own city will this be desired, as our great local institutions which claim him as their founder may find concealed in this happy discovery more facts which will elucidate many a problem in their history. But I doubt not Mr. Bigelow will be as careful in this regard as if he himself was as much a Philadelphian as the grand subject whose life he has already done so much to portray, and in such faithful lineaments.

T. H. M.

Ardrossam, June 7th.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE; ITS ALLEGED DECLINE IN NEW ENGLAND.¹

THE problem of agriculture and land-holding now occupies as much attention as any social and economic problem presented to our minds. England discusses the welfare of the tenant-farmer; Russia considers the condition of the recently emancipated serf; France is interested in the prosperity of an unambitious, industrious, frugal body of small land-holders and cultivators. The American goes farther, and inquires, How can an American farmer, occupy a farm of usual dimensions here, discharge his duty to the state, as a tax-payer and a voter, and gratify his desires with regard to the education of his family, the comfort and culture of his home, the informing of his own mind, and the gratification of his tastes, from the income he can derive from the cultivation of the land?

That the prosperity of agriculture has kept pace with the increasing prosperity of every other industry in our land is manifest. The activity of the grain-growing sections of our country has been great, for more reasons than one; and the demand for the products of the pasture and the stall has been most encouraging to those who supply the provision market at home and abroad. It may be that this encouragement of local and special crops has not been as great, and that the farmer is called upon to consider how he can secure a suitable reward for the labor which he applies to the careful and systematic tillage of the soil, to supply local markets with what they require, and for the care which he bestows on the orchard and the dairy. But, on the whole, the condition of the American farmer is looked upon as so satisfactory in every point of view, that the lesson taught by him is engaging the minds of some of the most thoughtful statesmen and publicists of the old world. It has been discovered that the American system of land-holding, for instance, is the foundation of great popular content, and, accompanied as it is by great social and civil opportunities, surrounded as it is by the free institutions of our land, attended as it is by the school-house and the meeting-house, and by the constant call to public service, which leaves but few exempt among us, it constitutes the foundation on which rest great mental activity, great dignity of character, great enterprise and ambition. To the practical work of the agricultural community here, widespread disaster, moreover, is almost unknown. The local damage of a drought or a flood is not, indeed, unusual; but the extent of our territory is such, the diversity of our soil and climate is so great, that the disasters seem to be circumscribed and accidental, while the prosperity is widespread and constant. With landed possessions which are obliged to bear the burdens of heavy taxation, with wages of labor vastly greater than in any of the countries of Europe, with the personal requirements of the farmer and his family increased by social obligations and the natural demand of a free and responsible people, we have been able to compete in the grain markets of the world with those who, in some instances, are furnished with land free of rent and taxation, and whose necessities of life are so small, and whose duties are so few, that the former seem intolerable, and the latter seem insignificant and trivial. The skill of the American farmer, supplied as he is with the most ingenious and graceful and effective machinery, has become an object of admiration and imitation. His well-organized and thrifty home is everywhere looked upon as a model. The place which he everywhere fills in the community is considered so important and honorable that other nations inquire how it has been attained. The crops of the American farmer are looked upon as so sure that all anxiety with regard to the supply of food for people less favored has passed away. In fact, comparing the products of 1880 with those of 1870, we may learn what can be accomplished in a single decade by a people constantly increasing in numbers and occupying new lands. In 1870 the amount of cotton produced was 4,352,317 bales; in 1880, more than 6,000,000 bales. In 1870 the amount of Indian corn raised was 760,944,549 bushels; in 1880, 1,754,449,435 bushels. In 1870 the wheat crop was 257,745,626 bushels; in 1880 it was 459,667,043 bushels. In 1870 the crop of oats was 282,107,157 bushels; in 1880, 407,859,033 bushels. In 1870 the tobacco crop amounted to 263,735,341 pounds; in 1880 it amounted to 473,107,573 pounds. The increase in agricultural products was nearly one hundred per cent. in ten years. And in the last year of this decade, from 1879 to 1880, out of this vast increase of our crops and products our cattle export rose from \$13,000,000 to \$14,000,000; corn from \$43,000,000 to \$50,000,000; wheat from \$169,698,000 to \$190,546,000; flour from \$35,000,000 to \$45,000,000; cotton from \$209,852,000 to \$245,534,391; beef from \$7,000,000 to \$13,000,000; lard from \$28,000,000 to \$35,000,000; and pork from \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000.

The rapid growth of this industry may be made more apparent by recurring to its condition in this country three-quarters of a century, and in some instances far less, ago. At that time the ploughs used were usually made by the village blacksmith and wheelwright. Shovel-factories were few and small. Grain-harvesters, reapers, mowers, tedders and horse-rakes were unknown. The mechanical enterprise engaged in producing these and other improved implements of husbandry is untiring, and in one recent year the patents issued for improvements in agricultural machinery exceeded one thousand, of which thirty-six were for rakes, one hundred and sixty for hay and grain harvesters and attachments, one hundred and sixty-seven for seed-planters and drills, thirty for hay and straw cutters, ninety for cultivators, seventy-three for bee-hives, ninety for churns, one hundred and sixty for ploughs and attachments. In 1810 our export of corn amounted to only 140,996 bushels; the amount of wheat exported was 325,024 bushels, and of flour, 798,431 barrels; the amount of cotton grown in 1820 was only 124,000,000 pounds. Of the great increase in the number and value of cattle, horses, sheep, and swine in this country, and of the development of the dairy as a source of profit to the farmer, it is unnecessary to speak. The annual production of more than \$3,000,000,000 by the agricultural industry of the country is of itself sufficient to indicate the skill and energy of those who are engaged in all its various branches. The increase in the number of farms in the United States during the twenty years from 1860 to 1880 is also remarkable and significant, there being, in 1860, 2,044,077, and in 1880, 4,008,907.

Notwithstanding this general growth of agriculture throughout the country, it is constantly asserted and generally understood that this indus-

try in one section is steadily declining. The decadence of agriculture in New England is accepted as a fact, and its causes, if any, are subjected to much critical inquiry, while its exact magnitude and nature seem to be entirely misunderstood. Its magnitude can be best obtained by figures; its causes are a matter of discussion and speculation. On careful investigation we find that the number of farms in New England has actually increased from 184,064 in 1880 to 187,252 in 1880; and that the value of these farms has increased, in the same period, from \$476,204,447 to \$580,721,438. This increase arises partly from the advancing price of the land per acre in fortunate locations, and partly from the additional value growing out of improved cultivation and the production of special crops of high market value. A comparison of the crops grown at these two periods will also indicate where the growth is, and where the decline, if any, may be found. The hay crop increased during those twenty years from 3,863,140 tons to 4,063,847 tons. The corn crop fell from 9,174,505 bushels in 1860 to 8,376,308 in 1880. The crop of oats declined from 9,505,951 bushels in 1860 to 7,821,861 in 1880. The potato crop increased from 21,402,927 to 22,628,269. While the number of horses increased from 248,992 to 278,527, and the number of cows increased from 680,930 to 747,656, the number of working oxen declined from 267,057 to 137,561, on account of the substitution of horses for oxen in farm work; and hence the value of the live stock, including sheep and swine, fell from \$73,969,634 to \$69,068,077. The amount of butter produced rose from 47,864,848 pounds to 65,463,129 pounds. The tobacco crop increased from 9,266,415 pounds to 19,726,398. No returns are obtainable of the value of farm products in 1860; but the census of 1880 gives this value at \$156,035,349. The orchard product, meanwhile, rose from \$2,783,372 in 1860 to \$3,817,948 in 1880; and the market-garden product increased from \$2,170,008 to \$3,241,732 during the same period. It will be seen from these figures that while the corn crop and the oat crop have diminished in every State except Vermont, the crop of potatoes has increased considerably in Connecticut, Maine, and Rhode Island, and fallen off in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The hay crop, one of the most important local crops, has increased largely in each one of the States, and the production of butter, also, very largely in all the States except Rhode Island,—the aggregate increase being more than twenty million pounds. In all the States, except Connecticut and New Hampshire, the value of the live stock, notwithstanding the large abandonment of oxen and store cattle, has increased greatly. While we can make no comparison with former years, on account of the absence of data, it is interesting to know that in 1880 there were in New England 3,845,229 barn-yard fowls, and that the hens laid, during that year, 27,391,056 eggs. The amount of milk sold to factories was 61,921,015 gallons.

It is evident from these figures that the 187,252 farms in New England are yielding a good return to those who cultivate them. The New England farmer has learned that the market for his corn is essentially injured by the cheaper crops and easy transportation of the West, and he raises it as subsidiary only to his other crops, and for domestic consumption. The same is true of his oats and wheat. He has learned that a well-managed dairy will pay; that his cows will make a fair return, by sale of milk for immediate use in the market; he has learned the value of an acre of land devoted to market gardening; he finds his orchard a profitable attachment to his farm when properly located and wisely selected; he has ascertained that his hay not only constitutes the very foundation of his farming, but that it also finds a ready market not far from his door. He confines himself, therefore, to these crops, and leaves the production of beef, pork, corn, and wheat to cheaper lands and more propitious skies. The figures I have given prove the wisdom of his course.

The decadence of New England farming means, therefore, that the farmers of these six States have learned their business, and understand what lands to occupy and what crops to cultivate, and what to abandon and avoid. And while they have left their remote hillside homes for acres lying near the large towns and cities, they have by no means proclaimed that the earth has ceased to make a liberal return to the industrious and judicious husbandman in New England, and offers a reward only to those who produce the staples on a wider sphere. The traveler through New England is always struck with the air of thrift and comfort he finds in the homesteads lying along the highways. Well-tilled fields, well-ordered buildings, well-arranged fences, well-to-do people, greet him on every hand. True, there are deserted farms in secluded places; but these are few in the populous counties, and they indicate rather the judgment of those who left them for more genial spots than the decay of that industry to which they were once actively devoted. The agriculture of New England has gathered around the thriving, populous, and wealthy manufacturing communities which are found at every waterfall, and whose industry invigorates all co-ordinate occupations, builds up schools and colleges and churches, and gives life to an active, cultivated, prosperous people. He who has seen this world would be slow to believe that the occupants of this soil are doomed to a hard and unprofitable toil, or that the evidences of prosperity around him are superficial and illusory. A careful study of the facts and figures will remove all doubts, and satisfy him that the thrift is real, and that the agriculture of New England rests on a substantial and profitable foundation.

The agricultural system which has succeeded in maintaining the rural prosperity of New England is necessarily exact and methodical, and consists in the most skilful application of the best rules of farming. The wholesale methods of new and fertile lands in sparsely-settled regions cannot succeed here. In the preparation of the soil, the application of fertilizers, the cultivation of the crops, which must be appropriately chosen, the selection and care of animals, the New England farmer is obliged to exercise the highest care and judgment and skill. In his address, delivered before the Essex Agricultural Society of Massachusetts last year, Mr. Thomas Sanders, of Haverhill, presented this law of New England farming with great force. He urged the best pure-bred farm animals, the best crops for local use, the best cultivation,—in fine, the most accurate farming,—as that which alone would make this industry profitable, and would so increase its attractions as to induce the young men, who now leave the land for other, and to them more agreeable, occupations, to remain in the home of their fathers. New England agriculture is full of promise, socially and financially, when pursued with a spirit of economy and enterprise, and with a just appreciation of the privileges which surround it.

GEORGE B. LORING.

¹From *The Citizen* (Boston), for June.

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